

# The Jews in Medieval Christendom

## The Highs and Lows of the Jews during the Middle Ages

The Middle Ages is the period of history from the fall of the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century to the Renaissance in the 15th century. Jews lived in Europe during this time, although their history does not fit precisely within the standard classification of the Middle Ages which is the early, high and late Middle Ages. Jewish medieval history really ends with the pre-modern period.

This series will cover the low periods for the Jews, usually secondary to the impact of the Christian world, as well as the high periods, which refer to numerous religious and intellectual developments within the Jewish communities. The history of the Jews during the Middle Ages will begin with their arrival in Europe in Italy and will end on the brink of the modern Jewish enlightenment era. Most of this takes place in Western Europe but will also include the early developments in Poland. The story of the Jews in Moslem Spain will for the most part be excluded as this can be studied separately.



### LECTURE OUTLINE

1. Settling into Europe - to the 11th century
2. Jewish society in the Middle Ages - to the 13th century
3. Instability and disaster - the Crusades and the Black Death
4. The Popes and the Reformation - to the 15th century
5. The Jews from Christian Spain and Portugal - to the 17th century
6. The pre-modern era: Poland and central Europe - to the 18th century

**DATES** Six lectures on Wednesdays, 2 - 3.30pm from 26 July to 30 August, 2023

**SPEAKER** A/Prof Peter Schattner

**FORMAT** Lectures, audience discussion and readings

**LOCATION** U3A Stonnington

**ENROLMENT** Enrolments will commence in early July via the website <http://u3astonnington.org.au>